

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-04 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCI-06

IOE-00 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AF-10

ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 OIC-04 DRC-01 CCO-00 OTPE-00

EB-11 FCC-03 OC-06 COME-00 /218 W

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P R 061750Z DEC 73

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1828

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, PFOR, UN, UR

SUBJ: FIRST COMMITTEE OPENS OUTER SPACE DEBATE

REF: A) STATE 236841

B) USUN 5316

1. SUMMARY: OMNIBUS OUTER SPACE RES TABLED; US CO-SPONSORS. FIRST COMTE DEBATE FOCUSSES ON DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITE (DBS) AND OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE (OSC) ENLARGEMENT.

2. DETAILS. AUSTRIA INTRODUCED DRAFT OMNIBUS OUTER SPACE RESOLUTION IN FIRST COMTE P.M. DEC 5. RES HAS 15 COSPONSORS: ALL WEO MEMBERS OF OSC PLUS BRAZIL, EGYPT, IRAN, JAPAN, LEBANON AND ROMANIA.

3. USSR AND OTHER EES APPARENTLY DELAYING DECISION ON COSPONSORSHIP OVER DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITE ISSUE.

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USSR IN STATEMENT OPENING GENERAL DEBATE ON OUTER

SPACE ITEM DEC 5 SAID GA'S "INSTRUCTIONS" TO ELABORATE DBS PRINCIPLES (RES 2916) REGRETTABLY REMAIN UNFULFILLED, AND THAT OSC SHOULD GIVE "VERY HIGHEST PRIORITY" TO CARRYING THEM OUT. SOV REP ASSERTED THAT ATTEMPT TO DELAY FORMULATING PRINCIPLES SIGNIFY EFFORTS OF "CERTAIN COUNTRIES" TO PRESERVE "LEGAL VACUUM" ALLOWING THEM UNCONTROLED USE OF DBS.

4. AMONG SPEAKERS DEC 5 INDIA (ALSO MISSING FROM RES COSPONSORS' LIST) STRONGLY SUPPORTED SOV POSITION ON DBS, SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING USSR DRAFT CONVENTION. INDIAN REP, CITING NY TIMES ARTICLE ON JAPANESE SATELLITE TELEVISION PLANS, SAID THIS SUGGESTED DBS COMING FASTER THAN PREVIOUSLY ASSUMED AND OSC SHOULD "GO TO WORK" ON CONVENTION. SWEDEN MADE PITCH FOR CANADIAN-SWEDISH DRAFT DBS PRINCIPLES AS EFFORT TO FIND "MIDDLE GROUND" BETWEEN INACTION AND UNDULY ABSOLUTIST PROPOSALS. SWEDISH REP (RYDBECK) ADDED THAT SOLUTION COULD NOT BE REACHED IF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPLIED IN ABSOLUTE TERMS IN DBS CONTEXT. UK SAID LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE COULD APPROPRIATELY "TAKE FIRST LOOK" AT DBS PRINCIPLES WHICH WOULD ADEQUATELY COMPLY WITH RES 2916.

5. OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM DEC 5 STATEMENTS:

(A) SWEDEN ASSERTED THAT ERTS-1 AND SKYLAB SUCCESSES "SURPASSING EXPECTATIONS" CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE PRESENT NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL REGULATION OF REMOTE SENSING.

(B) ON MOON TREATY SEVERAL DELS, WHILE ESPOUSING "COMMON HERITAGE" DOCTRINE RE LUNAR AND OTHER CELESTIAL BODIES' NATURAL RESOURCES, ACKNOWLEDGED EQUITY OF RETURN ON DEVELOPMENTAL AND OPERATIONAL INVESTMENT BY EXPLORING STATES; SOVS SAID AGREEMENT ON TREATY NEEDS "JUST ONE MORE STEP" BY ERSTWHILE HOLDOUTS.

(C) ON REGISTRATION KUWAIT WANTED REQUIREMENT FOR MARKING OBJECTS DESIGNED TO SURVIVE RE-ENTRY.

(D) QUESTION OF ENLARGING OSC RECEIVED MUCH ATTENTION: ITALY SUGGESTED ENLARGEMENT IN PROPORTION TO INCREASE IN UN MEMBERS SINCE OSC ESTABLISHED; INDONESIA POINTED TO GROSS REGIONAL IMBALANCE IN PRESENT COMITE COMPOSITION (WEOS AND EES COMPRISE ROUGHLY QUARTER OF UN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEMBERSHIP AND NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OF OSC.

6. ON ENLARGEMENT QUESTION, AUSTRIANS AND SOME OTHER WEOS ARE CONCERNED THAT INDONESIA, PAKISTAN AND PERHAPS OTHERS WITH ACTIVE INTEREST IN OSC MEMBERSHIP MAY TRY TO FORCE IMMEDIATE ENLARGEMENT THROUGH AMENDMENT TO OMNIBUS RES. AUSTRIAN DELOFF SAID DEC 5 THAT HE AND OSC CHAIRMAN JANKOWITSCH WOULD SEEK

TO FEND OFF THIS MOVE BUT WAS NOT OVERLY SANGUINE
THEY COULD PERSUADE ACTIVISTS, ESPECIALLY PAKISTAN.

7. COMMENT: IT IS POSSIBLE SOVS MAY SWALLOW OP PARA
ON DBS IN RES AND COSPONSOR. THEY MIGHT ALSO SEEK
TO AMEND DBS PARA; SOV DELOFF ORDZHONIKIDZE TOLD US
DELOFFS SEPARATELY DEC 4 AND 5 THAT SOVS WERE AWAITING
MOSCOW INSTRUCTIONS ON DBS QUESTION (WHICH OF COURSE
WOULD DETERMINE THEIR POSITION ON COSPONSORSHIP).
IT SEEMS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THEY WILL NOT RENEGE ON THEIR
STATED INTENTION NOT TO TABLE SEPARATE DBS RES;
AUSTRIANS TABLED OMNIBUS RES UNDER TITLES OF BOTH
OUTER SPACE AGENDA ITEMS, WHICH THEY WOULD NOT HAVE
DONE WITH ANY EXPECTATION OF SUCH ACTION BY USSR.
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